

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayanaru Krishnaru, Government are considering the effect of the High Court ruling in these *tiruppuvaram* cases on a reference made on it by the Land Revenue Commissioner.

As regards *poramboke* lands, all that I can say is that each case will be considered on its merits.

7. Difficulties experienced by the Cheramars in getting lands registered on concessional terms and measures for removing the same.

MR. PARADI A. ISAAC (*Nominated*) said that the depressed classes were not really benefited by the Government Order passed in 1921 regarding the assignment of 3 acres of land to each family. While the population of the depressed classes was over a million the extent of land assigned to them was only 3,277 acres, the total area earmarked for assignment to them being 15,313 acres. The chief reason why more lands were not registered was that most of the area earmarked was rocky and unprofitable. In selecting lands to be earmarked, the Revenue authorities seldom visited the spots. One other difficulty experienced by the depressed classes (Cheramars) in regard to the assignment of lands was that very often they were evicted from the lands occupied and improved by them on the ground that the lands were either *poramboke* or formed part of registered holdings or were reserved for grazing purposes. In some of these cases, the lands were assigned to members of other communities. Unless the Government took steps to alleviate the distress of these poor people their condition would indeed be pitiable. The appointment of a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes with powers to register lands on concessional terms would improve matters to a large extent. The need for appointing such an officer had been pressed at various sessions of the Assembly. That officer should be appointed without delay.

The depressed classes were agriculturists by profession. But they possessed no lands of their own. An extent of 3,000 acres of land had been disafforested and made available for wet cultivation. These lands might be earmarked for assignment to depressed classes alone. Among the lands referred to, the member specified the lands comprised in Survey Nos. 283/1, 111/1 and 372/1 of the Ranni pakuthi, Pattanamtitta taluk. An extent of 37 acres of land included in the *Nedumpuram*, *Kalappakod* and *Kuvakavu* swamps was occupied by about 40 families of Cheramars. But the members of the Syrian Christian community were trying to evict them. Members of the *Kanakappapuram* Cheramar Co-operative Society, No. 1117, had submitted applications for the lands. These applications should be enquired into and disposed of.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Isaac, Government have already done and are doing a lot for the depressed classes, whom you and the next two or three speakers represent. Anything more Government can do, will be done, if possible, and your representations on the subject will be noted.

It is impossible at this time of financial stringency to have a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes; but that will also be dealt with as occasion arises.